

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be reexamined.

Claims 16-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1-15 and 31-40 were withdrawn from consideration in the Office Action mailed December 12, 2007 (hereinafter "Office Action"). These claims have been canceled without prejudice to the filing of divisional applications pursuing the subject matter of these claims. The Office Action also rejected Claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0210767, to Sinclair et al. (hereinafter "Sinclair et al."). Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Sinclair et al. taken in further view of "Official Notice." Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0184496, to Mitchell et al. (hereinafter "Mitchell et al."). Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable taken in view of the teachings of Mitchell et al. taken in further view of "Official Notice." Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0081043, to Evans et al. (hereinafter "Evans et al."). Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Evans et al. taken in further view of "Official Notice." Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0198319, to Chan et al. (hereinafter "Chan et al."). Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Chan et al. taken further in view of "Official Notice." Applicants respectfully disagree for the reasons set forth below.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and for the reasons set forth below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims. Prior to discussing in detail why

applicants believe that all the claims in this application are allowable, a brief description of the disclosed subject matter and brief descriptions of the teachings of the cited and applied references are provided. The following descriptions of the disclosed subject matter and the cited and applied references are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims of this application. Instead, these descriptions are provided solely to assist the United States Patent and Trademark Office in recognizing the differences between the pending claims and the cited references, and should not be construed as limiting on the disclosed subject matter.

Disclosed Subject Matter

A system and method for aggregating and extending parental controls auditing in an unmanaged computing network are provided. A parental control system, including a parental control database, logging interface, and audit process, resides on each host computing device in the unmanaged computing network that is capable of synchronizing data residing on one of the host computing devices with data residing on the other devices in the network. The parental control system facilitates the logging and reporting of parental control audit information in a manner that allows parents to aggregate the audit information to obtain a comprehensive audit report of their children's use of all computers in a home, and is extensible and customizable by the applications from which the parental control audit information originates.

Summary of Sinclair et al. – U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0210767

Sinclair et al. purportedly describes a secured network group that provides common user access control and enables resource sharing among the computers in the group. A computer on the local network discovers whether there are secured network groups existing on the local network. If one secured network group is found, the computer indicates to a second computer in the group its desire to join the group, and establishes trust with that computer, such as by entering a proper user name and password, or a secret identification number. Once the trust is established, the first computer joins the group. Within the secured network group, user accounts and user profiles are replicated to each of the computers in the group. While describing a secured network group, Sinclair et al. does not disclose facilitating the logging and reporting of

parental control audit information in a manner that allows parents to aggregate the audit information to obtain a comprehensive audit report of their children's use of all computers in the home.

Summary of Mitchell et al. – U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0184496

Mitchell et al. purportedly describes methods and arrangements for obtaining and modifying parental consent and allowing parents to easily access and/or edit in some manner their children's information at any affiliated server. The methods include associating a first user with a second user in a first device and selectively providing information about the association of the first and second user to a second device as directed by the first user without requiring the second user to be logged in to either the first or second device. The step of selectively providing information about the association of the first and second user to the second device may further include providing the second device with a validation code that identifies the first user and the second user when the first user is logged in to the second device. Mitchell et al. does not disclose facilitating the logging and reporting of parental control audit information in a manner that allows parents to aggregate the audit information to obtain a comprehensive audit report of their children's use of all computers in the home.

Summary of Evans et al. – U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0081043

Evans et al. purportedly describes parental controls for entertainment digital media that allow a parent to restrict multiple user's access to entertainment content. One or more updatable rating definition files with dynamic data are used to define rating levels and content descriptors for a regional rating system. Entertainment content definition files define the rating level and content descriptors for entertainment content. User permission settings define a particular user's access rating level and content descriptors. Evans et al. does not disclose facilitating the logging and reporting of parental control audit information in a manner that allows parents to aggregate the audit information to obtain a comprehensive audit report of their children's use of all computers in the home.

Summary of Chan et al. – U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0198319

Chan et al. purportedly describes techniques for limiting access to Internet content using a parental control filtering system. One or more user systems are connected to the Internet through a network device such as a gateway router. The network device restricts Internet access to pre-selected Internet content in a guest mode without requiring a user to login to a user account. A guest user who does not have a user account is allowed limited access to the Internet through a user system in the guest mode. A user who has a user account can bypass the guest mode and obtain less restrictive access to the Internet by logging into the user account. Parental control settings of any level can be applied to a user account. The parent control setting assigned to a user account are applied to the user system when the user successfully logs in to his user account. Chan et al. does not disclose facilitating the logging and reporting of parental control audit information in a manner that allows parents to aggregate the audit information to obtain a comprehensive audit report of their children's use of all computers in the home.

Rejection of Claims 29 and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

As indicated above, Claims 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Prior to this amendment, Claim 29 recited a computer-readable medium. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Claim 29 has been amended to recite "A computer-readable **storage** medium." (Emphasis added.) Prior to this amendment, Claim 30 recited "A computer system having a processor, a memory and an operating system, the computer system operable to perform the method recited in Claim 16." Claim 30 has been amended to recite "the computer system **configured** to perform the method recited in Claim 16" instead of "the computer system operable to perform the method recited in Claim 16." (Emphasis added.) Applicants submit that replacing "operable" with "configured" does not narrow the scope of Claim 30 and that a computer system configured to perform a certain function is patentable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments, applicants submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection of Claims 29 and 30 has been overcome and request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

As indicated above, Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mitchell et al. The Office Action, in rejecting independent Claim 16, referenced page 6 of Mitchell, asserting that the text of page 6 discloses all of the recitations of Claim 16. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants respectfully submit that the remarks in the Office Action fail to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2) because they fail to explain the pertinence of Mitchell et al. and show exactly which parts of Mitchell et al. disclose the recitations of Claim 16. Applicants note that 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2), under the "Rejection of Claims" heading, requires:

When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant, the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified.

Applicants have been unable to identify which parts of the text on page 6 of Mitchell et al. disclose, or even pertain to, the subject matter recited in Claim 16. In this regard, applicants point out that Mitchell et al. describes methods "for obtaining and modifying parental consent and allowing parents to easily access and/or edit in some manner their children's information at any affiliated server." (See, e.g., paragraph [0006].) The methods described in Mitchell et al. have nothing to do with "a method for processing parental control audit data" recited in Claim 16. Page 6 of Mitchell et al., referenced in the Office Action, describes creating a user profile for a parent and child, logically linking these profiles, and modifying the consent information in the user profile of the child by the parent. Nowhere on page 6 or elsewhere does Mitchell et al. describe or suggest "a method for processing parental control audit data available for access on the network" comprising: in response to receiving a request from an application to log audit data, aggregating the audit data logged, logging the data, and in response to receiving a user request to report all of the audit data, reporting the aggregated audit data, as recited in Claim 16.

In the absence of showing how and where, if at all, Mitchell et al. discloses, teaches, or suggests all of the recitations of Claim 16, applicants submit that Claim 16 is not anticipated by, and is allowable over, Mitchell et al. Because Claims 17-26, 29, and 30 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 16, they are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 16.

Rejection of Claims 27 and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As indicated above, Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable taken in view of the teachings of Mitchell et al. taken in further view of "Official Notice." Because "Official Notice" does not make up for the deficiencies of Mitchell et al. and because Claims 27 and 28 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 16, and Claim 16 is submitted to be allowable, Claims 27 and 28 are also submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 16.

Rejection of Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

As indicated above, Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sinclair et al. The Office Action generally references pages 2, 4, and 6 of Sinclair et al. in its rejection of independent Claim 16. Applicants respectfully point out that, similarly to the rejection of Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 discussed above with respect to Mitchell et al., the remarks in the Office Action fail to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2) because they fail to explain the pertinence of Sinclair et al. and show which parts of Sinclair et al. disclose the recitations of Claim 16. Applicants have been unable to identify which parts of the text of pages 2, 4, or 6 of Sinclair et al. disclose, or even pertain to, the subject matter recited in Claim 16. For example, remarks accompanying the rejection of Claim 16 in the Office Action state:

Referring to claim 16, SINCLAIR discloses...obtaining a user request from one of the computing devices to report all audit data stored on the two or more computing devices associated with the same restricted user; reporting the requested audit data from the aggregated data on the requesting computer device (e.g., page 6).

However, page 6 of Sinclair et al. only describes accessing documents by a network user (paragraph [0038]), replicating and storing the documents along with the user profile (paragraph [0039]), secured sharing of files between the users of the group (paragraph [0040]), limited access to the group by non-members (paragraph [0041]), the "roaming parental control" scenario with updating the audit report of the child (paragraph [0042]), and a disclaimer (paragraph [0043]). Clearly, none of the above paragraphs in page 6 disclose or suggest "in response to one of the computing devices receiving a user request to report all of the audit data contained on the first and second computing devices associated with the same restricted user, reporting the aggregated audit data contained on the computing device receiving the requests to the requesting user" recitation of Claim 16.

The Office Action also fails to show which parts of Sinclair et al. disclose the other recitations of Claim 16. In the absence of showing how and where, if at all, Sinclair et al. discloses, teaches, or suggests the recitations of Claim 16, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 16 is not anticipated by, and is allowable over, Sinclair et al. Because Claims 17-26, 29, and 30 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 16, they are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 16.

Rejection of Claims 27 and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As indicated above, Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Sinclair et al. taken in further view of "Official Notice." Because "Official Notice" does not make up for deficiencies of Sinclair et al. discussed above and because Claims 27 and 28 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 16, and Claim 16 is submitted to be allowable, Claims 27 and 28 are also submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 16.

Rejection of Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

As indicated above, Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Evans et al. The Office Action generally references pages 2, 4, and 9 of

Evans et al. in its rejection of independent Claim 16. Applicants respectfully point out that, similar to the rejections discussed above with respect to Mitchell et al. and Sinclair et al., the remarks in the Office Action fail to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2) because they fail to explain the pertinence of Evans et al. and show which parts of Evans et al. disclose the recitations of Claim 16. For example, page 9 of Evans et al. does not disclose the Claim 16 recitation "in response to one of the computing devices receiving a user request to report all of the audit data contained on the first and second computing devices associated with the same restricted user, reporting the aggregated audit data contained on the computing device receiving the request to the requesting user." Rather, page 9 of Evans et al. describes evaluating a user with parental controls, blocking the user from accessing a game, updating the user's game content settings by the system administrator, and enabling parental control for legacy games. These descriptions clearly do not disclose the above recitations of Claim 16.

The Office Action also fails to show which parts of Evans et al., if any, disclose the remaining recitations of Claim 16. In the absence of such showing, applicants submit that Claim 16 is not anticipated by, and is allowable over, Evans et al. Because Claims 17-26, 29, and 30 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 16, they are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 16.

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Rejection of Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

As indicated above, Claims 16-26, 29, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chan et al. The Office Action generally references pages 1 and 2 of Chan et al. in its rejection of independent Claim 16. Applicants respectfully point out that, similarly to the rejections discussed above, the remarks in the Office Action fail to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(c)(2) because they fail to explain the pertinence of Chan et al. and show which parts of Chan et al. disclose the recitations of Claim 16. For example, page 2 of Chan et al. does not disclose the Claim 16 recitation "in response to one of the computing devices receiving a user request to report all of the audit data contained on the first and second computing devices associated with the same restricted user, reporting the aggregated audit data contained on the computing device receiving the request to the requesting user." Rather, page 2 of Chan et al. describes Figure 2 of Chan et al., which illustrates the application of "parental controls to user systems to restrict access to Internet content based on various predefined settings." (See, e.g., paragraph [0017].) Nowhere on page 2 or elsewhere does Chan et al. describe the above recitations of Claim 16.

The Office Action also fails to show which part of Chan et al., if any, discloses the remaining recitations of Claim 16. In the absence of such showing, applicants submit that Claim 16 is not anticipated by, and is allowable over, Chan et al. Because Claims 17-26, 29, and 30 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 16, they are submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 16.

Rejection of Claims 27 and 28 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As indicated above, Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the teachings of Chan et al. taken further in view of "Official Notice." Because "Official Notice" does not make up for the deficiencies of Chan et al., described above, and because Claims 27 and 28 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 16 and Claim 16 is

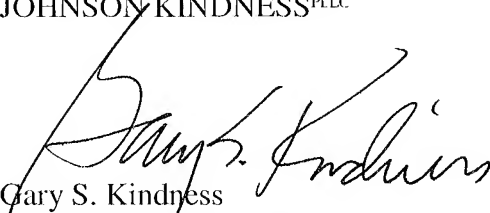
submitted to be allowable, Claims 27 and 28 are also submitted to be allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 16.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully submit that all of the remaining claims in this application are allowable. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this application to issue is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any remaining questions, the Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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